



Ms H 91-28











A  
L E T T E R  
F R O M  
William Penn  
Proprietary and Governour of  
P E N N S Y L V A N I A  
In America,  
TO THE <sup>H. 91. 28</sup>  
C O M M I T T E E  
O F T H E  
Free Society of Traders  
of that Province, residing in London.

CONTAINING

A General Description of the said *Province*, its *Soil, Air, Water, Seasons* and *Produce*, both Natural and Artificial, and the good Encrease thereof.

Of the *Natives* or *Aborigines*, their *Language, Customs* and *Manners, Diet, Hoases* or *Wigwams, Liberality, ease way of Living, Physick, Burial, Religion, Sacrifices* and *Cantico, Festivals, Government*, and their order in *Council* upon *Treaties* for *Land, &c.* their *Justice* upon *Evil Doers.*

Of the *first Planters, the Dutch, &c.* and the *present Condition* and *Settlement* of the said *Province*, and *Courts of Justice, &c.*

To which is added, An Account of the CITY of

P H I L A D E L P H I A

Newly laid out.

Its Scituation between two Navigable Rivers, *Delaware* and *Skulkill,*

WITH A

Portraiture or Plat-form thereof,

Wherein the Purchasers Lots are distinguished by certain Numbers inserted, directing to a Catalogue of the said Purchasers Names ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

And the Prosperous and Advantagious Settlements of the *Society* aforesaid, within the said *City* and *Country, &c.*

Printed and Sold by Andrew Sowle, at the Crooked-Billet in Holloway-Lane in Shoreditch, and at several Stationers in London, 1683. 9849

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## A Letter from *William Penn*, Proprietary and Governour of *PENNSYLVANIA*, &c.

*My Kind Friends;*

**T**HE Kindness of yours by the Ship *Thomas* and *Anne*, doth much oblige me; for by it I perceive the Interest you take in my *Health* and *Reputation*, and the *prosperous Beginnings* of this *Province*, which you are so kind as to think may much depend upon them. In return of which, I have sent you a long Letter, and yet containing as brief an Account of *My self*, and the *Affairs* of this *Province*, as I have been able to make.

In the first place, I take notice of the *News* you sent me, whereby I find some Persons have had so little Wit, and so much Malice, as to report my *Death*, and to mend the matter, *dead a Jesuit too*. One might have reasonably hop'd, that this *Distance*, like *Death*, would have been a protection against *Spite* and *Envy*; and indeed, *Absence* being a kind of *Death*, ought alike to secure the *Name* of the *Absent* as the *Dead*; because they are equally unable as such to defend themselves: But they that intend *Mischiefs*, do not use to follow *good Rules* to effect it. However, to the great Sorrow and Shame of the *Inventors*, I am still *Alive*, and *No Jesuit*, and I thank God, *very well*: And without Injustice to the Authors of this, I may venture to infer, That they that wilfully and fallly *Report*, would have been glad it had been *So*. But I perceive, many frivolous and *Idle Stories* have been *Invented* since my Departure from *England*, which perhaps at this time are no more *Alive*, than I am *Dead*.

But if I have been *Unkindly* used by some I left behind me, I found *Love* and *Respect* enough where I came; an universal kind *Welcome*, every sort in their way. For here are some of several *Nations*, as well as divers *Judgments*: Nor were the *Natives* wanting in this, for their *Kings*, *Queens* and *Great Men* both visited and presented me; to whom I made suitable Returns, &c.

For the *PROVINCE*, the general Condition of it take as followeth.

I. The Country it self in its *Soyl*, *Air*, *Water*, *Seasons* and *Produce* both Natural and Artificial is not to be despised. The *Land* containeth divers sorts of *Earth*, as *Sand* Yellow and Black; Poor and Rich: also *Gravel* both Loomy and Dusty; and in some places a *fast* *soe* *Earth*, like to our best *Vales* in *England*, especially by *Inland-Brooks* and *Rivers*, God in his Wisdom having ordered it so, that the *Advantages* of the Country are divided, the *Back-Lands* being generally *three to one* Richer than those that lie by *Navigable Waters*. We have much of another *Soyl*, and that is a *black Hesel-Mould*, upon a *Stony* or *Rocky* bottom.

II. The *Air* is sweet and clear, the Heavens serene, like the *South-parts* of *France*, rarely *Overcast*; and as the *Woods* come by numbers of People to be more *clear'd*, that it self will Refine.

III. The *Waters* are generally good, for the *Rivers* and *Brooks* have mostly *Gravel* and *Stony Bottoms*, and in Number hardly credible. We have also *Mineral Waters*, that operate in the same manner with *Barnet* and *Norsh-hall*, not two Miles from *Philadelphia*.

IV. For the *Seasons* of the Year, having by God's goodness now lived over the *Coldest* and *Hottest*, that the *Oldest Liver* in the *Province* can remember, I can say something to an *English* Understanding.

1<sup>st</sup>, Of the *Fall*, for then I came in: I found it from the 24<sup>th</sup> of *October*, to the beginning of *December*, as we have it usually in *England* in *September*, or rather like an *English mild Spring*. From *December* to the beginning of the Moneth called *March*, we had *sharp Frosty Weather*; not foul, thick, black Weather, as our *North-East Winds* bring with them in *England*; but a *Skie* as clear as in *Summer*, and the *Air* dry, cold, piercing and hungry; yet I remember not, that I wore more *Clothes* than in *England*. The reason of this *Cold* is given from the great *Lakes* that are fed by the *Fountains* of *Canada*. The *Winter* before was as *mild*, scarce any *Ice* at all; while this for a few dayes Froze up our great River *Delaware*. From that Moneth to the Moneth called *June*, we enjoy'd a *sweet Spring*, no *Gusts*, but *gentle Showers*, and a fine *Skie*. Yet this I observe, that the *Winds* here as there, are more *Inconstant* *Spring* and *Fall*, upon that turn of Nature, than in *Summer* or *Winter*. From thence to this present Moneth, which endeth the *Summer* (commonly speaking) we have had *extraordinary Heats* yet mitigated sometimes by *Cool Breezes*. The *Wind* that ruleth the *Summer-season*, is the

South-West; but *Spring, Fall and Winter*, 'tis rare to want the wholesome North West seven dayes together: And what-ever *Mists, Fogs or Vapours* foul the Heavens by *Easterly or Southerly Winds*, in two Hours time are blown away; the one is alwayes followed by the other: A Remedy that seems to have a peculiar Providence in it to the Inhabitants; the multitude of *Trees*, yet standing, being liable to retain *Mists and Vapours*, and yet not one quarter so thick as I expected.

V. The *Natural Produce* of the Country, of *Vegetables*, is *Trees, Fruits, Plants, Flowers*. The *Trees* of most note are, the *black Walnut, Cedar, Cyprus, Chestnut, Poplar, Gumwood, Hickery, Sassafrax, Ash, Beech and Oak* of divers sorts, as *Red, White and Black*; *Spanish Chestnut* and *Swamp*, the most durable of all: of *All* which there is plenty for the use of man.

The *Fruits* that I find in the *Woods*, are the *White and Black Mulbery, Chestnut, Wallnut, Plumbs, Strawberries, Cranberries, Hurtleberries and Grapes* of divers sorts. The great *Red Grape* (now ripe) called by Ignorance, the *Fox-Grape* (because of the Relish it hath with unskillful Palates) is in it self an extraordinary *Grape*, and by Art doubtless may be Cultivated to an excellent *Wine*, if not so sweet, yet little inferior to the *Frontinack*, as it is not much unlike in taste, Ruddynefs set aside, which in such things, as well as Mankind, differs the case much. There is a *white kind of Muskedel*, and a little *black Grape*, like the cluster-*Grape of England*, not yet so ripe as the other; but they tell me, when Ripe, sweeter, and that they only want skillful *Vinerons* to make good use of them: I intend to venture on it with my *French man* this season, who shews some knowledge in those things. Here are also *Peaches*, and very good, and in great quantities, not an *Indian Plantation* without them; but whether naturally here at first, I know not, however one may have them by *Bushels* for little; they make a pleasant *Drink*, and I think not inferior to any *Peach* you have in *England*, except the true *Newington*. 'Tis disputable with me, whether it be best to fall to *Fining* the *Fruits* of the Country, especially the *Grape*, by the care and skill or Art, or send for *forreign Stems and Sets*, already good and approved. It seems most reasonable to believe, that not only a thing groweth best, where it naturally grows; but will hardly be equalled by another *Species* of the same kind, that doth not naturally grow there. But to solve the doubt, I intend, if God give me Life, to try both, and hope the consequence will be as good *Wine* as any *European Countries* of the same Latitude do yield.

VI. The *Artificial Produce* of the Country, is *Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Pease, Beans, Squashes, Pumpkins, Water-Melons, Mus-Melons*, and all Herbs and Roots that our Gardens in *England* usually bring forth.

Note, that *Edward Jones*, Son-in-Law to *Thomas Wynn*, living on the *Schulkih*, had with ordinary Cultivation, for one *Gram* of *English Barley*, seventy *Staks* and *Ears* of *Barley*; And 'tis common in this Country from one *Bushel* sown, to reap forty, often fifty, and sometimes sixty And three *Pecks* of *Wheat* sows an *Acre* here.

VII. Of living Creatures; *Fish, Fowl*, and the *Beasts* of the *Woods*, here are divers sorts, some for Food and Profit, and some for Profit only: For Food as well as Profit, the *Elk*, as big as a small *Ox*, *Deer* bigger than ours, *Beaver, Raccoon, Rabbits, Squirrels*, and some eat young *Bear*, and commend it. Of *Fowl* of the Land, there is the *Turkey* (Forty and Fifty Pound weight) which is very great; *Pheasants, Heath-Birds, Pidgeons* and *Partridges* in abundance. Of the *Water*, the

*Swan, Goose*, white and gray, *Brands, Ducks, Teal*, also the *Snipe* and *Curloe*, and that in great Numbers; but the *Duck* and *Teal* excel, nor so good have I ever eat in other Countries. Of *Fish*, there is the *Sturgeon, Herring, Rock, Shad, Catshead, Sheephead, Eels, Smelt, Pearch, Roach*; and in *Inland Rivers, Trout*, some say *Salmon*, above the Falls. Of *Shellfish*, we have *Oysters, Crabbs, Cockles, Concks and Mushels*; some *Oysters* six Inches long, and one sort of *Cockles* as big as the *Stewing Oysters*, they make a rich Broth. The Creatures for Profit only by *Skin or Fur*, and that are natural to these parts, are the *Wild Cat, Panther, Otter, Wolf, Fox, Fisher, Minx, Musk-Rat*; and of the *Water*, the *Whale* for *Oyl*, of which we have good store, and two Companies of *Whalers*, whose Boats are built, will soon begin their Work, which hath the appearance of a considerable Improvement. To say nothing of our reasonable Hopes of good *Cod* in the *Bay*.

VIII. We have no want of *Horses*, and some are very good and shapely enough; two Ships have been freighted to *Barbadoes* with *Horses* and *Pipe-Staves*, since my coming in. Here is also Plenty of *Cow-Cattle*, and some *Sheep*; the People *Plow* mostly with *Oxen*.

IX. There are divers *Plants* that not only the *Indians* tell us, but we have had occasion to prove by *Swellings, Burnings, Cuts, &c.* that they are of great Virtue, suddenly curing the Patient: and for smell, I have observed several, especially one, the *wild Myrtle*; the other I know not what to call, but are most fragrant.

X. The *Woods* are adorned with lovely *Flowers*, for colour, greatness, figure and variety: I have seen the *Gardens* of *London* best stored with that sort of Beauty, but think they may be improved by our *Woods*: I have sent a few to a Person of Quality this Year for a tryal.

Thns much of the Country, next of the *Natives* or *Aberigines*.

XI. The

XI. The *NATIVES* I shall consider in their *Persons, Language, Manners, Religion* and *Government*, with my sense of their *Original*. For their *Persons*, they are generally tall, straight, well-built, and of singular Proportion; they tread strong and clever, and mostly walk with a lofty Chin: Of Complexion, *Black*, but by design, as the *Gypsies* in *England*: They grease themselves with Bears-fat clarified, and using no defence against *Sun* or *Weather*, their skins must needs be swarthy: Their *Eye* is little and black, not unlike a straight-look't *Jew*: The *thick Lip* and *flat Nose*, so frequent with the *East-Indians* and *Blacks*, are not common to them; for I have seen as comely *European-like faces* among them of both, as on your side the *Sea*; and truly an *Italian Complexion* hath not much more of the *White*, and the *Noses* of several of them have as much of the *Roman*.

XII. Their *Language* is lofty, yet narrow, but like the *Hebrew*; in Signification full, like *Short-hand* in writing; one word serveth in the place of three, and the rest are supplied by the Understanding of the Hearer: Imperfect in their *Tenses*, wanting in their *Moods, Participles, Adverbs, Conjunctions, Interjections*: I have made it my business to understand it, that I might not want an Interpreter on any occasion: And I must say, that I know not a Language spoken in *Europe*, that hath words of more sweetness or greatness, in *Accent* and *Emphasis*, than theirs; for Instance, *Octorokon, Rancocas, Diction, Shakamaron, Poquessin*, all which are names of Places, and have Grandeur in them: Of words of Sweetness, *Anna*, is *Mother, Isimus*, a *Brother, Metap*, *Friend*, *usque oret*, *very good*; *pone*, *Bread*, *metse*, *eat*, *matta*, *no*, *harta*, *to have*, *payo*, *to come*; *Sepassen, Passijon*, the Names of Places; *Tamane, Secane, Henamie, Secaterene*, are the Names of Persons. If one ask them for any thing they have not, they will answer, *mattá ne hattá*, which to translate is, *not I have*, instead of *I have not*.

XIII. Of their *Customs* and *Manners* there is much to be said; I will begin with *Children*. So soon as they are born, they wash them in *Water*, and while very young, and in cold *Weather* to chuse, they *Plunge* them in the *Rivers* to harden and embolden them. Having wrapt them in a *Clout*, they lay them on a straight thin *Board*, a little more than the length and breadth of the *Child*, and swaddle it fast upon the *Board* to make it straight; wherefore all *Indians* have flat *Heads*; and thus they carry them at their *Backs*. The *Children* will go very young, at *nine Months* commonly; they wear only a small *Clout* round their *Waist*, till they are big; if *Boys*, they go a *Fishing* till ripe for the *Woods*, which is about *Fifteen*; then they *Hunt*, and after having given some *Proofs* of their *Manhood*, by a good return of *Skins*, they may *Marry*, else it is a shame to think of a *Wife*. The *Girls* stay with their *Mothers*, and help to hoe the *Ground*, plant *Corn* and carry *Burthens*; and they do well to use them to that *Young*, they must do when they are *Old*; for the *Wives* are the true *Servants* of their *Husbands*: otherwise the *Men* are very affectionate to them.

XIV. When the *Young Women* are fit for *Marriage*, they wear something upon their *Heads* for an *Advertisement*, but so as their *Faces* are hardly to be seen, but when they please: The *Age* they *Marry* at, if *Women*, is about *thirteen* and *fourteen*; if *Men*, *seventeen* and *eighteen*; they are rarely elder.

XV. Their *Houses* are *Mats*, or *Banks of Trees* set on *Poles*, in the fashion of an *English Barn*, but out of the power of the *Winds*, for they are hardly higher than a *Man*; they lie on *Reeds* or *Grass*. In *Travel* they lodge in the *Woods* about a great *Fire*, with the *Mantle* of *Duffills* they wear by day, wrapt about them, and a few *Boughs* stuck round them.

XVI. Their *Diet* is *Maze*, or *Indian Corn*, divers ways prepared; sometimes *Roasted* in the *Ashes*, sometimes beaten and *Boyled* with *Water*, which they call *Homine*; they also make *Cakes*, not unpleasant to eat: They have likewise several sorts of *Beans* and *Pease* that are good *Nourishment*; and the *Woods* and *Rivers* are their *Larder*.

XVII. If an *European* comes to see them, or calls for *Lodging* at their *House* or *Wigwam*, they give him the best place and first cut. If they come to visit us, they salute us with an *Itah*, which is as much as to say, *Good be to you*, and set them down, which is mostly on the *Ground*, close to their *Heels*, their *Legs* upright; may be they speak not a word more, but observe all *Passages*: If you give them any thing to eat or drink, well, for they will not ask; and be it little or much, if it be with *Kindness*, they are well pleased, else they go away sullen, but say nothing.

XVIII. They are great *Concealers* of their own *Resentments*, brought to it, I believe, by the *Revenge* that hath been practised among them; in either of these, they are not exceeded by the *Italians*. A *Tragical Instance* fell out since I came into the *Country*; A *King's Daughter* thinking her self slighted by her *Husband*, in suffering another *Woman* to lie down between them, rose up, went out, pluck't a *Root* out of the *Ground*, and ate it, upon which she immediately dyed; and for which, last *Week* he made an *Offering* to her *Kindred* for *Attonement* and liberty of *Marriage*; as two others did to the *Kindred* of their *Wives*, that dyed a natural *Death*: For

till *Widowers* have done so, they must not *marry* again. Some of the *young Women* are said to take undue liberty before *Marriage* for a *Portion*; but when *married*, chaste; when with Child, they know their *Husbands* no more, till delivered; and during their *Moneth*, they touch no *Meat*, they eat, but with a *Stick*, lest they should defile it; nor do their *Husbands* frequent them, till that time be expired.

XIX. But in *Liberality* they excell, nothing is too good for their friend; give them a *fine Gun*, *Coat*, or other thing, it may pass *twenty hands*, before it sticks; *lights of Heart*, *strong Affections*, but soon spent; the most *merry* Creatures that live, *Feast* and *Dance* perpetually; they never have much, nor want much: *Wealth* circulateth like the *Blood*, all parts partake; and though none shall want what another hath, yet exact *Observers of Property*. Some *Kings* have sold; others presented me with several *parcels of Land*; the *Pay* or *Presents* I made them, were not *hoarded* by the particular Owners, but the *neighbouring Kings* and their *Clans* being present when the Goods were brought out, the Parties chiefly concerned consulted, what and to whom they should give them? To every *King* then, by the hands of a *Person* for that work appointed, is a proportion sent, so sorted and folded, and with that *Gravity*, that is admirable. Then that *King* sub-divideth it in like manner among his *Dependents*, they hardly leaving themselves an *Equal Share* with one of their *Subjects*: and be it on such occasions, at *Festivals*, or at their *common Meals*, the *Kings* distribute, and to themselves last. They care for little, because they want but little; and the Reason is, a little contents them: In this they are sufficiently revenged on us; if they are ignorant of our *Pleasures*, they are also free from our *Pains*. They are not disquieted with *Bills of Lading* and *Exchange*, nor perplexed with *Chancery-Suits* and *Exchequer-Rickonedings*. We *sweat* and *toil* to live; their *pleasure* feeds them, I mean, their *Hunting*, *Fishing* and *Fowling*, and this *Table* is spread every where; they eat twice a day, *Morning* and *Evening*; their *Seats* and *Table* are the *Ground*. Since the *Europeans* came into these parts, they are grown great lovers of *strong Liquors*, *Rum* especially, and for it exchange the richest of their *Skins* and *Furs*: If they are heated with *Liquors*, they are restless till they have enough to *sleep*; that is their cry, *Some more, and I will go to sleep*; but when *Drunk*, one of the most *wretchedst Spectacles in the World*.

XX. In *Sickness* impatient to be cured, and for it give any thing, especially for their *Children*, to whom they are extremely natural; they drink at those times a *Teran* or *Decoction* of some *Roots* in *spring Water*; and if they eat any *flesh*, it must be of the *Female* of any *Creature*: If they dye, they bury them with their *Apparel*, be they *Men* or *Women*, and the nearest of *Kin* fling in something precious with them, as a token of their *Love*: Their *Mourning* is *blacking* of their *faces*, which they continue for a *year*: They are choice of the *Graves* of their *Dead*; for least they should be loit by time, and fall to common use, they pick off the *Grass* that grows upon them, and heap up the fallen *Earth* with great care and exactness.

XXI. These poor People are under a dark *Night* in things relating to *Religion*, to be sure, the *Tradition* of it; yet they believe a *God* and *Imortality*, without the help of *Metaphysicks*; for they say, *There is a great King that made them, who dwells in a glorious Country to the Southward of them, and that the Souls of the good shall go thither, where they shall live again*. Their *Worship* consists of two parts, *Sacrifice* and *Cantico*. Their *Sacrifice* is their *first Fruits*; the first and fattest *Buck* they kill, goeth to the *fire*, where he is all burnt with a *Mournful Ditty* of him that performeth the *Ceremony*, but with such *marvellous Fervency* and *Labour of Body*, that he will even *sweat* to a *foam*. The other part is their *Cantico*, performed by *round-Dances*, sometimes *Words*, sometimes *Songs*, then *Shouts*, two being in the middle that begin, and by *Singing* and *Drumming* on a *Board* direct the *Chorus*: Their *Postures* in the *Dance* are very *Antick* and differing, but all keep *measure*. This is done with equal *Earnestness* and *Labour*, but great appearance of *Joy*. In the *Fall*, when the *Corn* cometh in, they begin to *feast* one another; there have been two great *Festivals* already, to which all come that will: I was at one my self; their *Entertainment* was a *green Seat* by a *Spring*, under some *shady Trees*, and *twenty Bucks*, with *hot Cakes* of *new Corn*, both *Wheat* and *Beans*, which they make up in a *square form*, in the leaves of the *Stem*, and bake them in the *Ashes*: And after that they fell to *Dance*. But they that go, must carry a small *Present* in their *Money*, it may be *six Pence*, which is made of the *Bone* of a *Fish*; the black is with them as *Gold*, the *white*, *Silver*; they call it all *Wampum*.

XXII. Their *Government* is by *Kings*, which they call *Sachema*, and those by *Succession*, but always of the *Mothers side*; for Instance, the *Children* of him that is now *King*, will not succeed, but his *Brother* by the *Mother*, or the *Children* of his *Sister*, whose *Sons* (and after them the *Children* of her *Daughters*) will reign; for no *Woman* inherits; the Reason they render for this way of *Descent*, is, that their *Issue* may not be *spurious*.

XXIII. Every *King* hath his *Council*, and that consists of all the *Old* and *Wise men* of his *Nation*, which perhaps is *two hundred People*: nothing of *Moment* is undertaken, be it *War*, *Peace*, *Selling* of *Land* or *Traffick*, without advising with them; and which is more, with the *Young Men*

too. 'Tis admirable to consider, how *Powerful* the *Kings* are, and yet how they move by the *Breath* of their *People*. I have had occasion to be in *Council* with them upon *Treaties* for *Land*, and to adjust the terms of *Trade*; their *Order* is thus: The *King* sits in the middle of an half *Moon*, and hath his *Council*, the *Old* and *Wise* on each hand; behind them, or at a little distance, sit the younger *Fry*, in the same figure. Having consulted and resolv'd their business, the *King* order'd one of them to speak to me; he stood up, came to me, and in the Name of his *King* saluted me, then took me by the hand, and told me, *That he was order'd by his King to speak to me, and that now it was not he, but the King that spoke, because what he should say, was the King's mind.* He first pray'd me, *To excuse them that they had not comply'd with me the last time; he feared, there might be some fault in the Interpreter, being neither Indian nor English; besides, it was the Indian Custom to deliberate, and take up much time in Council, before they resolve; and that if the Young People and Owners of the Land had been as ready as he, I had not met with so much delay.* Having thus introduced his matter, he fell to the *Bounds* of the *Land* they had agreed to dispose of, and the *Price*, (which now is little and dear, that which would have bought *twenty Miles*, not buying now *two*.) During the time that this Person spoke, not a man of them was observ'd to *whisper* or *smile*; the *Old* *Grave*, the *Young* *Reverend* in their *Department*; they do speak little, but *seriously*, and with *Elegancy*: I have never seen more *natural Sagacity*, considering them without the help, (I was a going to say, the *spoils*) of *Tradition*; and he will deserve the Name of *Wise*, that *Out-wits* them in any *Treaty* about a thing they understand. When the *Purchase* was agreed, great *Promises* pass between us of *Kindness* and *good Neighbourhood*, and that the *Indians* and *English* must live in *Love*, as long as the *Sun* gave light. Which done, another made a *Speech* to the *Indians*, in the Name of all the *Sachamakers* or *Kings*, first to tell them what was done; next, to charge and command them, *To Love the Christians, and particularly live in Peace with me, and the People under my Government: That many Governours had been in the River, but that no Governour had come himself to live and stay here before; and having now such a one that had treated them well, they should never do him or his any wrong.* At every sentence of which they shouted, and said, *Amen*, in their way.

XXIV. The *Justice* they have is *Pecuniary*: In case of any *Wroug* or *evil Fact*, be it *Murder* it self, they Atton by *Feasts* and *Presents* of their *Wampon*, which is proportioned to the quality of the *Offence* or *Person injured*, or of the *Sex* they are of: for in case they kill a *Woman*, they pay *double*, and the *Reason* they render, is, *That she breedeth Children, which Men cannot do.* 'Tis rare that they fall out, if *Sober*; and if *Drunk*, they forgive it, saying, *It was the Drink, and not the Man, that abus'd them.*

XXV. We have agreed, that in all *Differences* between us, *Six* of each side shall end the matter: Don't abuse them, but let them have *Justice*, and you win them: The worst is, that they are the worse for the *Christians*, who have propagated their *Vices*, and yielded them *Tradition* for ill, and not for *good things*. But as low an *Ebb* as they are at, and as *glorious* as their *Condition* looks, the *Christians* have not *out-liv'd* their *sight* with all their *Pretensions* to an *higher Manifestation*: What good then might not a *good People* graft, where there is so *distinct a Knowledge* left between *Good* and *Evil*? I beseech *God* to incline the *Hearts* of all that come into these parts, to *out-live* the *Knowledge* of the *Natives*, by a *strict Obedience* to their *greater Knowledge* of the *Will of God*; for it were *miserable* indeed for us to fall under the *just censure* of the poor *Indian Conscience*, while we make profession of things so far *transcending*.

XXVI. For their *Original*, I am ready to believe them of the *Jewish Race*, I mean, of the stock of the *Ten Tribes*, and that for the following *Reasons*; first, They were to go to a *Land not planted or known*, which to be sure *Asia* and *Africa* were, if not *Europe*; and he that intended that extraordinary Judgment upon them, might make the *Passage* not uneasy to them, as it is not impossible in it self, from the *Easter-most* parts of *Asia*, to the *Wester-most* of *America*. In the next place, I find them of like *Countenance*, and their Children of so *lively Resemblance*, that a man would think himself in *Dukes-place* or *Berry-street* in *London*, when he seeth them. But this is not all, they agree in *Rites*, they reckon by *Moons*; they offer their *first Fruits*, they have a kind of *Feast of Tabernacles*; they are said to lay their *Altar* upon *twelve Stones*; their *Mourning a year*, *Customs of Women*, with many things that do not now occur.

So much for the *Natives*, next the *Old Planters* will be considered in this Relation, before I come to our *Colony*, and the *Concerns* of it.

XXVII. The *first Planters* in these parts were the *Dutch*, and soon after them the *Sweeds* and *Finns*. The *Dutch* apply'd themselves to *Traffick*, the *Sweeds* and *Finns* to *Husbandry*. There were some *Disputes* between them some years, the *Dutch* looking upon them as *Intruders* upon their *Purchase* and *Possession*, which was finally ended in the *Surrender* made by *John Rixing*, the *Sweeds* Governour, to *Peter Styresant*, Governour for the *States of Holland*, Anno 1655.

XXVIII. The *Dutch* inhabit mostly those parts of the *Province*, that lie upon or near to the *Bay*, and the *Sweeds* the *Freshes* of the *River Delaware*. There is no need of giving any *Description*

scription of them, who are better known there than here; but they are a *plain, strong, industrious People*, yet have made no great progress in *Culture* or *propagation* of *fruit-Trees*, as if they desired rather to have enough, than *Plenty* or *Traffick*. But I presume, the *Indians* made them the more careless, by furnishing them with the means of *Profit*, to wit; *Skins* and *Furs*, for *Rum*, and such *strong Liquors*. They kindly received me, as well as the *English*, who were few, before the *People* concerned with me came among them: I must needs commend their *Respect* to *Authority*, and *kind Behaviour* to the *English*; they do not degenerate from the *Old friendship* between *both Kingdoms*. As they are *People* proper and *strong* of *Body*, so they have *sine Children*, and almost every house full; rare to find one of them without *three* or *four Boys*, and as many *Girls*; some *six*, *seven* and *eight Sons*: And I must do them that right, I see few *Young men* more *sober* and *laborious*.

XXIX. The *Dutch* have a *Meeting-place* for Religious *Worship* at *New-Castle*, and the *Sweedes*, *three*, one at *Christina*, one at *Tenecum*, and one at *Wicoco*, within half a *Mile* of this *Town*.

XXX. There rests, that I speak of the *Condition* we are in, and what *Settlement* we have made, in which I will be as short as I can; for I fear, and not without reason, that I have tryed your *Patience* with this long *Story*. The *Country* lieth bounded on the *East*, by the *River* and *Bay* of *Delaware*, and *Eastern Sea*; it hath the *Advantage* of many *Creeks* or *Rivers* rather, that run into the main *River* or *Bay*; some *Navigable* for great *Ships*, some for small *Craft*: Those of most *Eminency* are *Christina*, *Brandywine*, *Skilpot* and *Skulkill*; any one of which have room to lay up the *Royal Navy* of *England*, there being from *four* to *eight Fathom* *Water*.

XXXI. The *lesser Creeks* or *Rivers*, yet convenient for *Sloops* and *Ketches* of good *Burthen*, are *Lewis*, *Mespilion*, *Cedar*, *Dover*, *Cranbrock*, *Fevershan*, and *Georges* below, and *Chichester*, *Chester*, *Toacawny*, *Pemmapecka*, *Portquessin*, *Neshimenek* and *Pennberry* in the *Frelhes*; many lesser that admit *Boats* and *Shallops*. Our *People* are mostly settled upon the upper *Rivers*, which are pleasant and sweet, and generally bounded with good *Land*. The *Planted* part of the *Province* and *Territories* is cast into six *Counties*, *Philadelphia*, *Buckingham*, *Chester*, *New-castle*, *Kent* and *Suffex*, containing about *Four Thousand Souls*. *Two General Assemblies* have been held, and with such *Concord* and *Dispatch*, that they sate but *three Weeks*, and at least *seventy Laws* were past without one *Dissent* in any material thing. But of this more hereafter, being yet *Raw* and *New* in our *Geer*: However, I cannot forget their singular *Respect* to me in this *Infancy* of things, who by their own private *Expences* so early consider'd *Mine* for the *Publick*, as to present me with an *Impost* upon certain *Goods* Imported and Exported: Which after my *Acknowledgements* of their *Affection*, I did as freely *Remit* to the *Province* and the *Traders* to it. And for the well *Government* of the said *Counties*, *Courts* of *Justice* are establish'd in every *County*, with proper *Officers*, as *Justices*, *Sheriffs*, *Clarks*, *Constables*, &c. which *Courts* are held every *two Moneths*: But to prevent *Law-Suits*, there are *three Peace-makers* chosen by each *County-Court*, in the nature of common *Arbitrators*, to hear and end *Differences* betwixt man and man; and *Spring* and *Fall* there is an *Orphan's Court* in each *County*, to inspect and regulate the *Affairs* of *Orphans* and *Widdows*.

XXXII. *Philadelphia*, the *Expectation* of those that are concern'd in this *Province*, is at last laid out to the great *Content* of those here, that are any wayes *Interested* therein: The *Situation* is a *Neck* of *Land*, and lieth between two *Navigable Rivers*, *Delaware* and *Skulkill*, whereby it hath two *Fronts* upon the *Water*, each a *Mile*, and two from *River* to *River*. *Delaware* is a glorious *River*, but the *Skulkill* being an *hundred Miles* *Boatable* above the *Falls*, and its *Course* *North-East* toward the *Fountain* of *Susquahannah* (that tends to the *Heart* of the *Province*, and both sides our own) it is like to be a great part of the *Settlement* of this *Age*. I say little of the *Town* it self, because a *PLAT-FORM* will be shewn you by my *Agent*, in which those who are *Purchasers* of me, will find their *Names* and *Interest*: But this I will say for the good *Providence* of *God*, that of all the many *Places* I have seen in the *World*, I remember not one better seated; so that it seems to me to have been appointed for a *Town*, whether we regard the *Rivers*, or the *conveniency* of the *Coves*, *Ducks*, *Springs*, the *loftiness* and *soundness* of the *Land* and the *Air*, held by the *People* of these parts to be very good. It is advanced within less than a *Year* to about *four Score Houses* and *Cottages*, such as they are, where *Merchants* and *Handicrafts* are following their *Vocations* as fast as they can, while the *Country-men* are close at their *Farms*: Some of them got a little *Winter-Corn* in the *Ground* last *Season*, and the generality have had a handsom *Summer-Crop*, and are preparing for their *Winter-Corn*. They reaped their *Barley* this *Year* in the *Moneth* called *May*; the *Wheat* in the *Moneth* following; so that there is time in these parts for another *Crop* of divers *Things* before the *Winter Season*. We are daily in hopes of *Shipping* to add to our *Number*; for blessed be *God*, here is both *Room* and *Accommodation* for them; the *Stories* of our *Necessity*, being

being either the *Fear* of our *Friends*, or the *Scare-Crows* of our *Enemies*; for the greatest hardship we have suffered, hath been *Salt-Meat*, which by *Fowl* in *Winter*, and *Fish* in *Summer*, together with some *Poultry*, *Lamb*, *Mutton*, *Veal*, and plenty of *Venison* the best part of the year, hath been made very passable. I bless God, I am fully satisfied with the *Country* and *Entertainments* I can get in it; for I find that particular *Content* which hath always attended me, where God in his Providence hath made it my place and service to reside. You cannot imagine, my *Station* can be at present free of more than ordinary *business*, and as such, I may say, *It is a troublesome Work*; but the *Method* things are putting in, will facilitate the Charge, and give an easier Motion to the *Administration* of *Affairs*. However, as it is some mens Duty to *plow*, some to *sow*, some to *water*, and some to *reap*; so it is the *Wisdom* as well as *Duty* of a man, to yield to the mind of *Providence*, and cheerfully, as well as carefully imbrace and follow the Guidance of it.

XXXIII. For your particular Concern, I might entirely refer you to the Letters of the *President* of the *Society*; but this I will venture to say, Your *Provincial Settlements* both within and without the *Town*, for *Scituation* and *Soil*, are without Exception: Your *City-Lot* is an *whole Street*, and one side of a *Street*, from *River* to *River*, containing near *one hundred Acres*, not easily valued; which is besides your *four hundred Acres* in the *City-Liberties*, part of your *twenty thousand Acres* in the *Country*. Your *Tannery* hath such plenty of *Bark*, the *Saw-Mill* for *Timber*; the place of the *Glass-house* so conveniently posted for *Water-carriage*, the *City-Lot* for a *Dock*, and the *Whalery* for a sound and fruitful *Bank*, and the *Town-Lewis* by it to help your *People*, that by Gods blessing the *Affairs* of the *Society* will naturally grow in their *Reputation* and *Profit*. I am sure, I have not turned my back upon any *Offer* that tended to its *Prosperity*; and though I am ill at *Projects*, I have sometimes put in for a share with her *Officers*, to countenance and advance her *Interest*. You are already informed what is fit for you further to do, whatsoever tends to the *Promotion* of *Wine*, and to the *Manufacture* of *Linnen* in these parts, I cannot but wish you to promote it; and the *French People* are most likely in both respects to answer that design: To that end I would advise you to send for some *Thousands* of *Plants* out of *France*, with some able *Vineros*; and *People* of the other *Vocation*: but because I believe you have been entertained with this and some other profitable *Subjects* by your *President*, I shall add no more, but to assure you, that I am heartily inclined to advance your *just Interest*, and that you will always find me

Your Kind and Cordial Friend,

William Penn.

Philadelphia, the 16th of the  
6th Moneth, call'd August,  
1683.

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# A Short Advertisement

Upon the Scituation and Extent of the CITY of

# PHILADELPHIA

And the ensuing *PLAT-FORM* thereof.

By the *Surveyor General*.

**T**He City of Philadelphia now extends in *Length*, from River to River, *two Miles*, and in *Breadth* near a *Mile*; and the *Governour*, as a further manifestation of his Kindness to the *Purchasers*, hath freely given them their respective *Lots* in the City, without defalcation of any their *Quantities* of purchased *Lands*; and as its now placed and modelled between *two Navigable Rivers* upon a Neck of Land, and that Ships may ride in good *Anchorage*, in *six or eight Fathom Water* in both Rivers, close to the City, and the Land of the City level, dry and wholfom; such a *Scituation* is scarce to be parallel'd.

The *Model* of the City appears, by a small *Draught* now made, and may hereafter, when time permits, be augmented; and because there is not room to express the *Purchasers Names* in the *Draught*, I have therefore drawn *Directions of Reference*, by way of *Numbers*, whereby may be known each mans *Lot and Place* in the City.

The City is so ordered now, by the *Governour's Care and Prudence*, that it hath a *Front* to each *River*, one half at *Delaware*, the other at *Skullkill*; and though all this cannot make way for *small Purchasers* to be, in the *Fronts*, yet they are placed in the *next Streets*, contiguous to each *Front*, viz. all *Purchasers of one Thousand Acres*, and upwards, have the *Fronts* (and the *High-street*), and to every *five Thousand Acres Purchase*, in the *Front* about an *Acre*, and the *smaller Purchasers* about half an *Acre* in the *backward Street*; by which means the least hath room enough for *House, Garden and small Orchard*, to the great Content and Satisfaction of all here concerned.

The City (as the *Model* shews) consists of a *large Front-street* to each *River*, and a *High-street* (near the middle) from *Front* (or *River*) to *Front*, of *one hundred foot broad*, and a *broad Street* in the middle of the City, from *side to side*, of the like breadth. In the Center of the City, is a *Square of Ten Acres*; at each Angle are to be Houses for *publick Affairs*, as a *Meeting-House, Assembly or State-House, Market-House, School-House*, and several other Buildings for *Publick Concerns*. There are also in each Quarter of the City, a *Square of eight Acres*, to be for the like Uses, as the *Moor-fields in London*; and *eight Streets* (besides the said *High-street*) that run from *front to front*, and *twenty Streets* (besides the *broad-street*) that run cross the City, from *side to side*; all these Streets are of *fifty Foot breadth*.

In each *Number* in the *Draught*, in the *Fronts* and *High-street*, are placed the *Purchasers of One Thousand Acres*, and upwards, to make up *five Thousand Acres Lot*, both in the said *Fronts* and *High-street*, and the *Numbers* direct to each *Lot*, and where in the City; so that thereby they may know, where their Concerns are therein.

The *Front Lots* begin at the *South-ends* of the *Fronts*, by the *Numbers*, and so reach to the *North-ends*, and end at *Number 43*. The *High-street Lots* begin towards the *Fronts* at *Number 44*, and so reach to the Center.

The *lesser Purchasers* begin at *Number 1*, in the *second Streets*, and so proceed by the *Numbers*, as in the *Draught*; the *biggest* of them being *first placed*, nearest to the *Fronts*.

Directions



























